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BRIEFER ARTICLES

ERGOT ON OATS

(WITH ONE FIGURE)

While harvesting the grain in the oat-breeding nursery conducted by the Office of Grain Investigations of the Department of Agriculture,



FIG. 1

in cooperation with the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, at Ames, Iowa, in July, 1909, a number of specimens of ergot (*Claviceps purpurea*) on oats were found. Ergot on oats is said to be quite common in Algeria, and probably occurs elsewhere, but a partial review of the literature does not show that it has been previously reported from the United States. The ergot masses which were found at Ames were in all cases near the base of the panicle, as shown in the accompanying illustration, and usually only one of the spikelets was affected. The disease was most common on the Burt oat, a variety which, strangely enough, is entirely resistant to smut.

The season of 1909 was a particularly wet one, a

condition generally recognized as favorable to ergot epidemics. No occurrence of the disease was noted at Ames in the dry season of 1910. Specimens of ergot collected at Ames in 1909 are in the herbarium of the Iowa State College and in the pathological collection of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.—C. W. WARBURTON, *Bureau of Plant Industry, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.*